Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An audio user-interfacing method in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the method being performed with an audio cursor in the form of a synthesized sound source that is movable in the audio field under user control and from which a distinctive cursor sound emanates, the method including the steps of:

(a) ~~providing an audio cursor in the form of a synthesised sound source that is movable in the audio field under user control and from which a distinctive cursor sound emanates~~ moving the synthesized sound source in the audio field; and

(b) ~~comparing the current position of the audio cursor in the audio field with the positions of the item-representing sound sources and upon~~ in response to the cursor ~~coming~~ being moved in the audio field so the cursor comes close to an item-representing sound source, generating a related audible indication by modifying, in a manner that is perceptible to a user, the ~~sounds~~ sound emanating from at least one of ~~that~~ the item-representing sound source and the cursor.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said audible indication is varied in correspondence with changes in the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor whereby to facilitate an appreciation by the user as to whether user-commanded cursor movement is moving the cursor closer to or further from the item-representing sound source.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said audible indication is varied by changing a continuously-variable audio characteristic in correspondence with changes in the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said audible indication is varied by changing a spoken element to indicate the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said audible indication is indicative of the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said audible indication is varied by changing a continuously-variable audio characteristic to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said audible indication is varied by changing a spoken element to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said audible indication is varied in correspondence with changes in the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor whereby to facilitate an appreciation by the user as to whether user-commanded cursor movement is moving the cursor closer to or further from the item-representing sound source; said

audible indication also being such as to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said audible indication is provided solely through modifying the sounds emanating from the item-representing sound source.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said audible indication is provided solely through modifying the sounds emanating from the cursor.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the audible indication comprises a first component provided through modifying the sounds emanating from the item-representing sound source, and a second component provided through modifying the sounds emanating from the cursor; one said component being varied in correspondence with changes in the distance between the item-representing sound source and the cursor, and the other said component being indicative of the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the said audible indication is used to signal to the user ~~when~~ in response to the said item-representing sound source and cursor ~~are~~ being coincident, at least in terms of their direction from a user reference location.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the audible indication comprises at least a first, non-varying, element indicative of the general proximity of the cursor to a said

item-representing sound source, and a second, continuously variable, element indicating the separation distance between the cursor and the item-representing sound source.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the audio cursor is moved in the audio field by directly changing, through user input, the rendering position of the cursor in the audio field.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the item-representing sound sources are arranged in one or more groups with the or each group being associated with a respective audio-field reference relative to which the sound sources of the group are positioned, the cursor sound source being associated with a further audio-field reference; the audio-field references being independently movable relative to a presentation reference determined by a mounting configuration of audio output devices used to synthesise said sound sources; movement of the cursor in the audio field being effected by user-controlled movement of the cursor-associated audio-field reference relative to the presentation reference.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the cursor-associated audio field reference is

stabilised relative to one of:

- a user's body;
- a user's head;

this stabilisation taking account of whether audio output devices used to synthesise the sound sources are world, body or head mounted, and, as appropriate, rotation of the user's head or body.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cursor is movable in a depth direction of the audio field towards and away from a user reference position, the said distinctive cursor sound being varied to provide the user with an indication of the current position of the cursor in said depth direction.

18. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) the cursor is determined to be close to an item-representing sound source ~~when it is~~ as a result of the cursor being within a threshold distance of the latter, this threshold distance being settable by the user.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, including the further step of selecting an item by aligning the audio cursor with the corresponding item-representing sound source and providing a selection command input.

20. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein at least some of the said items represented by the sound sources are audio labels for services, the method further ~~involving~~ including selecting a service by selecting the corresponding audio-label item using the audio cursor.

21. (Currently amended) Apparatus for providing an audio user interface in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the apparatus comprising:

- rendering-position determining means for determining, for each item-representing sound source, an associated rendering position at which the sound source is to be synthesized to sound in the audio field;

- cursor-control means for determining, under user control, a current rendering position in the audio field of a cursor sound source and for providing a distinctive cursor sound for output from the cursor sound source;

- rendering means, including audio output devices, for generating an audio field in which said item-representing and cursor sound sources are synthesized at their associated rendering positions; and

- cursor-proximity means for (a) comparing the current rendering position of the audio cursor with the rendering positions of the item-representing sound sources, and (b) ~~for~~ generating a related audible indication by modifying the sounds emanating from at least one of that item-representing sound source and the cursor sound source in response to the cursor being determined as being close to an item-representing sound source.

22. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to vary said audible indication in correspondence with changes in the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor whereby to facilitate an appreciation by the user as to whether user-commanded cursor movement is moving the cursor closer to or further from the item-representing sound source.

23. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to control said audible indication to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

24. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to vary said audible indication in correspondence with changes in the distance between

said item-representing sound source and the cursor, the cursor-proximity means being further operative to control said audible indication to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

25. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to provide said audible indication solely through modifying the sounds emanating from the item-representing sound source.

26. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to provide said audible indication solely through modifying the sounds emanating from the cursor sound source.

27. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to provide said audible indication in the form of a first component provided through modifying the sounds emanating from the item-representing sound source, and a second component provided through modifying the sounds emanating from the cursor sound source; said cursor-proximity means being operative for (a) varying one said component in correspondence with changes in the distance between the item-representing sound source and the cursor, and (b) controlling the other said component to be indicative of the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

28. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to control the said audible indication to signal to the user ~~when~~ in response to the said item-representing sound source and cursor ~~are~~ being coincident, at least in terms of their direction from a user reference location.

29. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said cursor-proximity means is operative to form the said audible indication with at least a first, non-varying, element indicative of the general proximity of the cursor to a said item-representing sound source, and a second, continuously variable, element indicating the separation distance between the cursor and the item-representing sound source.

30. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the cursor-control means includes user-operable input means arranged to directly change the rendering position of the cursor sound source in the audio field.

31. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the cursor-control means comprises:

- means for setting the location of the cursor sound source relative to an audio-field reference;

- user input means for controlling an offset between the audio-field reference and a presentation reference, the presentation reference being arranged to be determined by a mounting configuration of the audio output devices; and

- means for deriving the rendering position of each sound source based on the location of the sound source in the audio field and said offset.

32. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the cursor-control means further comprises stabilisation means for varying the said offset in dependence on rotation of the user's head or body and taking account **[[.]]**of whether said audio output devices

are world, body or head mounted, such as to stabilise said audio field reference relative to one of:

- a user's body;
- a user's head.

33. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the cursor-control means is operative to enable the cursor to be moved under user control in a depth direction of the audio field towards and away from a user reference position, the cursor-control means being further operative to vary said distinctive cursor sound to provide the user with an indication of the current position of the cursor in said depth direction.

34. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the cursor-proximity means is operative to determine the cursor as being close to an item-representing sound source in response to the cursor being ~~when it is~~ within a threshold distance of the latter, the apparatus including user-operable means for setting this threshold distance.

35. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising selection means for selecting an item by providing a selection command input after the audio cursor has been aligned with the corresponding item-representing sound source using the cursor-control means.

36. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 35, wherein at least some of the said items represented by the sound sources ~~are~~ include audio labels for services.

37. (Currently amended) Apparatus for providing an audio user interface in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate, the apparatus comprising:

- a rendering-position determining arrangement operative to determine, for each item-representing sound source, an associated rendering position at which the sound source is to be synthesized to sound in the audio field;

- a cursor-control arrangement operative to determine, under user control, a current rendering position in the audio field of a cursor sound source and to provide a distinctive cursor sound for output from the cursor sound source;

- a rendering subsystem, including audio output devices, arranged to generate an audio field in which said item-representing and cursor sound sources are synthesized at their associated rendering positions; and

- a cursor-proximity arrangement operative to ~~compare the current rendering position of the audio cursor with the rendering positions of the item-representing sound sources and, upon~~ generate a related audible indication by modifying, in a manner that is perceptible to a user, the sounds emanating from at least one of the item-representing sound source and the cursor sound source in response to the cursor being determined as close to an item-representing sound source~~, to generate a related audible indication by modifying the sounds emanating from at least one of that item-representing sound source and the cursor sound source~~.

38. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to vary said audible indication in correspondence with changes in the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor whereby to facilitate an appreciation by the user as to whether user-commanded cursor movement is moving the cursor closer to or further from the item-representing sound source.

39. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to control said audible indication to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

40. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to vary said audible indication in correspondence with changes in the distance between said item-representing sound source and the cursor, the cursor-proximity arrangement being further operative to control said audible indication to indicate the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

41. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to provide said audible indication solely through modifying the sounds emanating from the item-representing sound source.

42. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to provide said audible indication solely through modifying the sounds emanating from the cursor sound source.

43. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to provide said audible indication in the form of a first component provided through modifying the sounds emanating from the item-representing sound source, and a second component provided through modifying the sounds emanating from the cursor sound source; said cursor-proximity arrangement ~~varying~~ is operative to (a) vary one said component in correspondence with changes in the distance between the item-representing sound source and the cursor, and ~~controlling~~ (b) control the other said component to be indicative of the direction of the said item-representing sound source from the cursor or the reverse of this direction.

44. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to control the said audible indication to signal to the user ~~when~~ in response to the said item-representing sound source and cursor ~~are~~ being coincident, at least in terms of their direction from a user reference location.

45. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said cursor-proximity arrangement is operative to form the said audible indication with at least a first, non-varying, element indicative of the general proximity of the cursor to a said item-representing sound source, and a second, continuously variable, element indicating the separation distance between the cursor and the item-representing sound source.

46. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the cursor-control arrangement includes user-operable input device arranged to directly change the rendering position of the cursor sound source in the audio field.